GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4954
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
U.S. NAVAL BASE IN INDIAN OCEAN
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. plans for the establishment of a Naval base in the Indian Ocean region;

(b) if so, whether during the U.S.A. President`s visit to India this issue was discussed;

(c) if so, whether India has agreed to give permission to U.S.A. to set up a Naval base in the Indian Ocean;

(d) if so, whether the U.S.A. government had earlier sought the cooperation of both Pakistan and Bangladesh in this regard but both had refused;

(e) if so, the reason for the Indian Government agreeing to this proposal;

(f) whether Indian Navy is against this proposal; and (g) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) The United States already maintains a naval base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has no specific information in this regard.

(e),(f)& (g) Does not arise.